

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291924 TOSEC 310306

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9550 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON MASERU
30 NOV 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9550

FOR AF-EDMONDSON FROM WISNER

LONDON FOR SEITZ AND MASERU FOR AMB SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: ANC ACCUSATIONS OF BRITISH
PLOT

1. MISSION OFFICER MET WITH MOLTON MILIANGA OF
MUZOREWA DELEGATION NOV 29 TO LEARN WHAT DELEGATION'S
STRATEGY WILL BE NOW THAT DATE ISSUE OUT OF THE WAY.
DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION MILIANGA VOLUNTARILY RAISED
MATTER OF SPEECH BY GORDON CHAVANDUKA IN SALISBURY NOV 29,
ACCUSING FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND BRITISH OF COLLUDING
TO APPOINT NKOMO PRIME MINISTER IN TRANSITIONAL GOVERN-
MENT. MALIANGA SAID THAT "PERSISTENT RUMORS IN SOUTH
AFRICAN, RHODESIAN AND US PRESS" HAD CONVINCED HIS
DELEGATION THAT BRITISH FAVORED NKOMO FOR POSITION AND THAT
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THIS WAS REASON FOR BRITISH REJECTION OF ELECTIONS FOR

INTERIM PRIME MINISTER AS PROPOSED BY MUZOREWA.

2. ASKED ABOUT DOCUMENT THAT CHAVANDUKA CLAIMED PROVIDED "IRREFUTABLE PROOF" OF UK-FRONT LINE COLLUSION, MALIANGA SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE DOCUMENT BUT DID NOT DOUBT ITS EXISTENCE. WHEN FURTHER PRESSED, MALIANGA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AGREEMENT AMONG FRONT LINE STATES AND UK ON CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY UNLIKELY AND THAT ACCUSATIONS OF THIS SORT UNLIKELY TO ENDEAR MUZOREWA TO FRONT LINE LEADERS, BRITISH OR OTHER DELEGATIONS. FINALLY HE VOLUNTEERED THAT MUCH OF THE CONTENT OF CHAVANDUKA'S SPEECH WAS DIRECTED AT ANC'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY, DESIGNED TO PORTRAY MUZOREWA AS ONLY LEADER REPRESENTING INTERESTS OF RHODESIAN BLACKS IN FACE OF MACHINATIONS BY EXTERNAL ACTORS TO IMPOSE A FOREIGN SOLUTION. DESPITE THIS ADMISSION AND THE INSUBSTANTIAL NATURE OF HIS "EVIDENCE," MALIANGA CLUNG TO HIS BELIEF THAT BRITISH HAVE SOMETHING UP THEIR SLEEVE.

3. ASKED WHETHER HIS DELEGATION WAS IN CONTACT WITH OTHERS IN EFFORT TO WORK OUT COMMON APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS, MALIANGA SAID THERE WAS SOME SOCIALIZING BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS BUT VERY LITTLE CONSULTATION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HIS DELEGATION HAD DEVELOPED NO NEW IDEAS OR APPROACHES AND IS STILL AWAITING BRITISH RESPONSE TO MUZOREWA'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR ELECTIONS. MALIANGA LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HIS DELEGATION HAS DONE VERY LITTLE OF ANYTHING IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS WHILE BRITISH HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN DISCUSSION WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT ON DATE ISSUE. ANC STILL LOOKING TO THE BRITISH TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN RESOLVING NOT ONLY THOSE DIFFERENCES THAT SEPARATE SMITH AND THE NATIONALISTS, BUT ALSO THOSE THAT DIVIDE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS.

4. COMMENT: MALIANGA, A SHONA (BUT NOT A KARANGA) IS ORGANIZING SECRETARY OF THE ANC. A FORMER MEMBER OF THE ZANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN PRISON, HE IS NOW A STAUNCH MUZOREWA SUPPORTER.
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MUZOREWA HAS FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS MADE ALLEGED US-UK PREFERENCE FOR NKOMO A CONSTANT ISSUE SINCE THE START OF THE CONFERENCE AND HAS RAISED IT REPEATEDLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHAUFLE, REINHARDT AND WISNER. IT LOOKS TO BE AN ISSUE HE DOES NOT WISH TO SEE DIE, NO MATTER WHAT ASSURANCES AND DENIALS WE OR BRITISH MAY OFFER.CATTO.
UNQUOTE ROBINSON.

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